

REMARKS

Claims 1-16, 19, and 33 were previously cancelled. Claims 17, 24, and 32 have been amended, and Claims 23 and 26 have been cancelled without prejudice. No claims have been added. With entry of this Amendment, Claims 17-18, 20-22, 24-25, 27-32 and 34-41 are currently pending in the application. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the pending claims in view of the following remarks.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner rejected Claims 17-18, 20-25, 27-32, and 34-41 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

Applicant respectfully disagrees with this rejection, however, independent Claims 17 and 32 have been amended to remove reference to the “viscoelastic” language to advance prosecution of this application.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner indicated that Claim 26 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant has amended Claims 17 and 32 to incorporate the subject matter of Claim 26.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, entry of this Amendment and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. The undersigned is available for telephone consultation during normal business hours.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gregory J. Hartwig', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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